

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 301823Z JUL 76  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 684  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0192

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CA, US

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT OF U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS

REF: OTTAWA 3060

LE SOLEIL ON JULY 29 CARRIED EDITORIAL ENTITLED CANADIAN-AMERICAN TENSIONS BASED ON PROBLEMS RAISED IN RECENTLY RELEASED CANADIAN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE REPORT ON STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. EDITORIAL WAS SIGNED BY NEWSPAPER S MODERATE EDITORIALIST, GILLES BOYER, WHO IS COMMITTED FEDERALIST AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS U.S.

BOYER ASCRIBES BASIS OF PRESENT DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN U.S. AND CANADA TO CANADIAN CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE INDUCED BY DEEP DIVISIONS WITHIN NATION. SAYS CANADA IS IN ONE OF "GRAVEST CRISIS IN ITS HISTORY" WITH COUNTRY PROFOUNDLY DIVIDED BETWEEN TWO MAJOR LINGUISTIC GROUPS." NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF INTERNAL FRAGILITY, CANADIANS ATTEMPT TO FIND A MINIMUM OF PROTECTION FROM EXTERNAL FORCES, I.E. THE U.S." THIS IS REAL SOURCE OF GROWING PROTECTIONIST MEASURES, BOYER ASSERTS.

EDITORIAL SUGGESTS CANADA NOW HAS GREATEST OPPORTUNITY IN HISTORY TO DIVERSIFY ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS BY PURSUING "THIRD OPTION." NONETHELESS, MANY CANADIANS WHO FAVOR DIVERSIFICATION, STILL SUBSCRIBE TO COMMITTEE S REMARKS CONCERNING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT IS POLITICALLY DESIRABLE IN THE SHORT TERM AND WHAT IS ECONOMICALLY NECESSARY IN THE  
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LONG TERM. BOYER AFFIRMS THAT THERE IS "NO DOUBT THAT, FOR

A LONG TIME TO COME, THE U.S. WILL BE OUR PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL AND, PER FORCE, POLITICAL PARTNER." EVEN CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES WITH OUR NEIGHBOR MIGHT BE DESIRABLE IN THEMSELVES. BUT, HE SAID, THIS WOULD REQUIRE A NATIONAL UNITY IN CANADA WHICH DOES NOT NOW EXIST. WITHOUT THIS UNITY, CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES WOULD RESULT IN "ABSORPTION, PURE AND SIMPLE."

PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, LE SOLEIL GRACIOUSLY CONTENTS, DO NOT STEM FROM AN AMERICAN IMPERIALIST WISH TO EXPAND WHICH "ONLY EXISTS IN CHRONICALLY ANTI-AMERICAN MINDS." RATHER, THESE PROBLEMS FLOW FROM AMERICAN "IMPERIAL POWER" IN THE FACE OF WHICH HER NEIGHBORS MUST GIVE THEMSELVES THE MEANS TO PRE-SERVE A MINIMUM OF AUTONOMY.

EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "DESIRABLE DIVERSIFICATION OF OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS DOES NOT IN ANY WAY REQUIRE THE RUPTURE OF OUR TIES WITH THE US, WHICH ARE EQUALLY DESIRABLE", AS LONG AS THESE TIES REMAIN BASED ON EQUALITY.

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